

The BAY LEAF

June 2000



California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

Calendar of Events

June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 27, FRIDAYS:

■ Native Here Nursery open, 9 a.m.-noon (see p. 2).

June 6, 13, 20 and 27, TUESDAYS:

■ Propagation and planting sessions for the October sale of native plants (see below).

June 6, 13, 20 and 27, TUESDAYS:

■ Native Here seed forays, 9 a.m. (see p. 2).

June 7, W EDN ESDAY:

■ Board of Directors' meeting at the home of Phoebe Watts, 1419 Grant St., Berkeley. 7:30 p.m. All members welcome.

June 10 and 24, SATURDAYS:

■ Native Here Nursery open, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (see p. 2).

June 12, MONDAY:

■ Deadline for July-August *Bay Leaf*. Give items to Phoebe Watts or Brett Boltz.

June 28, W EDN ESDAY:

■ Membership meeting, 7:30 p.m. (see right).

July 7-9, FRIDAY-SUN DAY:

■ Field trip to Monitor Pass (see p. 3).

■ There will not be a Board of Directors' meeting in July.

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 p.m.

The Draft Yosemite Plan

Speaker: Susan Gonshor

You can help shape the future of Yosemite Valley!

Yosemite National Park has released the Draft Yosemite Valley Plan for public review. This plan presents several proposals that seek to restore degraded areas and reduce development within the Merced River ecosystem, reduce automobile congestion, remove some housing and administrative operations, and relocate campgrounds and parking in Yosemite Valley. It is based on the broad goals of the park's 1980 General Management Plan.

Susan Gonshor, a National Park Service representative, invites you to come learn more about the plan and provide your vital input at this special event.

The meeting will take place in the Conference Center of the University of California Botanical Garden on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium, above the main campus of the University of California in Berkeley. The Garden gate will open at 7 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. CNPS books and other publications will be on display and available for purchase.

Plant Sale Activities



Potting Sessions this month:

Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20, and 27
9 a.m.- noon

Merritt College Landscape Horticulture Area

Come up to the growing grounds at Merritt and join us on Tuesday mornings. We are potting plants we have grown, and watering and weeding all the plants. Handling the plants as you care for them is an excellent way

to become familiar with their characteristics and to memorize their names. Learn while you help with our Chapter's main fund-raiser. There are jobs for all.

Plant sale dates are October 7 and 8.

Bring two quarters for the parking permit machine at the gate, and a bag lunch if you can stay. More information at (925) 376-4095.

Native Plant Restoration Activities

Native Here Nursery

Volunteers are welcome to join Charli on Tuesday mornings to travel around the Chapter's area in search of seeds. Permits have been issued by East Bay Regional Parks and California State Parks. Meet at the nursery at 9 a.m. Sites visited will vary according to conditions and what is likely to be ripe. If interested, just show up at the nursery at 9 on a Tuesday, or e-mail cwd@wli.net.

The wonderful group of Friday volunteers will be dwindling soon—Helga will be returning to Germany, Cam will be graduating, and Al will be going to Africa. Many seedlings await planting into larger containers. Do you have an hour or two or three on Fridays or Saturdays? Native Here is a wonderful, peaceful place to spend a few hours, on a weekly basis, or just now and then. Nesting hawks, deer, and songbirds abound. To volunteer is easy, all you have to do is show up at the nursery willing to slip on some gloves (provided) and dig into the soil bin. Other tasks include answering the phone, writing up sales, weeding, watering, and tidying up the nursery. Native Here is at 101 Golf Course Drive in Tilden Park directly across from the Golf Course Clubhouse entrance. Phone is 549-0211.

Restoration of a Native Bunchgrass and Wildflower Grassland

Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park

Seed collection started at the end of April. *Nassella pulchra* is early this year. Blue-eyed grass seed will be ready by June and it looks as though there may be enough California poppy that the ground squirrels will leave some for people to collect.

The newly opened area (burned in 1999) will need a midsummer mowing as there are patches of yellow star thistle taking advantage of the open areas. Mowing is best done with only two people working, so big workdays are not scheduled. Please get in touch with Charli Danielsen 525-9076, cwd@wli.net, to set up a mowing date. Midweek is possible for her, and some weekends, Sundays usually best. Walter Koop has been doing a lot of the mowing this year. Thanks, Walt!

. . . Charli Danielsen

Native Plant Restoration Team

We had a very successful joint work day on May 6 with the Friends of Five Creeks at Albany's lovely Buchanan Salt Marsh, at the mouth of Codornices Creek. About 22 people, two kids and a dog pulled literally tons of invasive *Carpobrotus edulis* out of this area. Local native plants of note included creeping wildrye, *Limonium californicum*, marsh gumplant and pickleweed.

On June 3 the Team will return to an EBRPD crown jewel, one of the most diverse associations of native perennial grasses in the Central Coast Ranges, Oakland's Skyline Serpentine Prairie. This small "pocket prairie" boasts 16 species of native perennial grasses, the endangered *Clarkia franciscana*, and a whole host of other botanical treasures. And it's threatened by one of the West's worst weeds, yellow starthistle. We'll be pulling this nasty plant and soaking up the good atmosphere. This is a great place to bone up on your native grass ID skills. July 1 will find us at the same place; we may also do some vegetational monitoring/line transects and photo documentation on that day.

Meet Saturday, June 3 at 10 a.m. in the usual place: Native Here Nursery, 101 Golf Course Drive in Tilden Park, across from the Golf Course main entrance. Or meet us at 10:30 a.m. or a little after at the Prairie, south of the junction of Skyline Blvd. with Joaquin Miller Blvd., behind the old EBRPD's main office (easy to get to—take Hwy. 13 to Joaquin Miller, go east/up the hill, hang a left into the parking lot). Wear protective clothing—sturdy shoes, long sleeves and pants, a sun hat; bring water, lunch, gloves if you have them. We also have gloves and tools to lend. Would you like to get on our email list? No junk emails are allowed. Send me a note at casartunda@aol.com.

. . . Noah Booker

Vernal Pool Conservation

Proposed UC Merced Campus

Many members of CNPS and other interested in wildflowers are concerned that the proposed location for the new University of California Campus outside Merced will damage the largest remaining contiguous area of vernal pools left in California. While all of us recognize the need for a new campus, the currently proposed site would fragment a pristine area of pools on a critical area of diverse soil types. The Board of Directors of the East Bay Chapter therefore passed the following resolution at the May meeting:

"Because of the danger of fragmenting the largest contiguous vernal pool ecosystem left in California, The East Bay Chapter of CNPS encourages the University of California to site the proposed UC Merced campus in such a way as to minimize the destruction of vernal pools or preferably to eliminate the danger of fragmentation altogether by choosing alternate siting."

Members who wish to learn more about this issue will find information at the following website: www.vernalpools.org. Also, a brief photo-essay about vernal pools in general is available in the photo gallery at www.cnps.org.

. . . John Game

Field Trip



The Milo Baker Chapter invites other CNPS members to join a weekend adventure in the **eastern Sierra**, Friday to Sunday, July 7-9. On Friday afternoon, explore trails through Jeffrey pine forest and meadows. On Saturday, botanize around **Monitor Pass**, 8,000 feet elevation, an open sagebrush and meadow landscape fringed by groves of quaking aspen and enriched with desert and montane wildflowers. At Grover Hot Springs State Park, five campsites are reserved for Friday and Saturday nights. Camping fee is \$10/person for one night, \$15/person two nights. Each campsite has a firepit and grill, cupboards, bear-proof lockers and tables, and is near drinking water and restrooms (no showers). The park's mineral springs are

channeled into concrete pools, where you can swim or just soak (\$4 for adults, \$2 children). Bring supplies for cooking. Each campsite accommodates a maximum of 8 people and two cars. Please carpool for this trip. Drivers of extra vehicles will need to arrange for offsite parking at the park and/or pay a fee.

Reservations can be made by sending payment (payable to CNPS-Milo Baker Chapter) to Peter Warner, 555 Magnolia Ave., Petaluma, CA 94952-2080. For more information contact leaders Peter Warner at (707) 763-7405 or <peterwarner@earthlink.net> or Ann Howald at 939-0775 or <annhowald@vom.com>.

2000 Board of Directors

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w/ 643-0600

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Jm Sharp 644-9344

Je Willingham 841-4681

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Tim Heelan 226-8294

Plant Communities:

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Rare plants:

Brad Olson 482-0794

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Dianne Lake 741-8066

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David Bigham 843-4247

Myrtle Wolf 843-8759

Education:

Ely Bade 644-1656

Kathleen Dickey 525-6489

Field trips:

Janet Gawthrop 654-2065

Growing Natives Group:

Glenn Keator 527-9802

Hospitality:

Irene Wilkinson (925) 254-3675

Legislation:

Poy Buck 848-4169

roybuck@msn.com

Membership:

Delia Taylor 527-3912

Native Here Nursery:

Charli Daniels 549-0211

cwd@wli.net

Native Plant Restoration Team:

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w/ 840-9367

casartunda@aol.com

Posters:

Heather Koshinsky h/ 528-8954

w/ 559-5977

Plant Sale:

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Phoebe Watts 525-6614

(Publicity):

Elaine Jackson (925) 372-0687

Programs:

Jodi McGraw 528-5090

jmmcgraw@socrates.berkeley.edu

EBRP Botanic Garden Liaison:

Jenny Fleming 848-3455

All area codes are 510 unless noted.

Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977

CNPS Home Page:

http://www.calpoly.edu/~dchippin/cnps_main.html



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New Membership Application

The California Native Plant Society is open to all. The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, and conservation. Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly journal *Fremontia*.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

____ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

____ Other _____

Mail application and check to:

Membership Chairman, California Native Plant Society, 1722 J St., Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Membership category:

____ Student, Retired, limited income, \$20

____ Individual, Library, \$35

____ Household, Family, or Group, \$45

____ Supporting, \$75

____ Plant lover, \$100

____ Patron, \$250

____ Benefactor, \$500

____ Life, \$1000

Native Plant Restoration Activities

Native Here Nursery

May is the beginning of the busiest times for native plant nurseries. Seeds are beginning to ripen. Our first seed foray will be Tuesday, May 2. Meet at the nursery at 9 a.m. if you are interested in helping. Seed forays are impromptu field trips with the nursery collecting permit, to find seeds for future nursery stock. They will continue through the summer on Tuesdays.

The seeds collected last year continue to germinate, so many hands are needed at the nursery to grow them on into ever larger containers. Hours are Fridays from 9 to noon, Saturdays, May 12 and May 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Plants are for sale when the nursery is open. Although May through September are not good months to plant, you may set plants aside with a deposit for planting this fall. Check out the Chapter website for sales policies and price list.

A volunteer is needed to water every Sunday. Please contact Charli Danielsen by e-mail cwd@wli.net, phone at 525-9076, or come in when the nursery is open. The nursery is at 101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park. Phone at the nursery is 549-0211.

Restoration at Mitchell Canyon

The field at the Mitchell Canyon entrance to Mt. Diablo State Park received a lot of attention this spring. California poppies had spread in a wide swath toward the road following the controlled fire of last year. Some mowing and weeding will be needed this year. Contact Charli Danielsen to arrange training on the mower and to determine the times you are available to mow or weed. cwd@wli.net or 525-9076.

. . . Charli Danielsen

Native Plant Restoration Team

Come work in the Buchanan Salt Marsh with the Friends of Five Creeks! We will be pulling ice plant and enjoying this rare opportunity to do restoration work down on the Bay. Thanks to Susan Schwartz of FOFC for the chance to work at this special location. The salt marsh is on the south side of Buchanan Street, between the freeway and Golden Gate Fields racetrack (just west of the freeway). Buchanan is the westward extension of Marin. To park, you may have to go a little farther west to the parking lot for the Albany section of the Bay Trail, and walk back.

Gloves and whatever one likes to use to remove ice plant are all that is needed, though another wheelbarrow or two would help if someone has them. The ice plant is on dry land, so there's no need to wade. We will have extra tools and gloves to lend as well. People might want to bring binoculars and plan to go for a walk

afterwards on the Albany Bulb or the new bay trail going north to Point Isabel—the bird watching is great.

Meet on Saturday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m. at the Buchanan Salt Marsh. Wear protective clothing: sturdy shoes, pants and long sleeves, a rain coat just in case (I have to dream); bring water and snacks. If you'd like to receive a monthly update on Team activities, please email me at casartunda@aol.com.

. . . Noah Booker

Field Trips



Albany Hill, in Albany, on Sunday, May 7, at 9 a.m. Barbara Ertter will lead a half day hike. Bring water and be prepared for unmaintained trails. From the south, exit I-80 at the Albany exit, and then go to San Pablo Ave., heading north. Turn left onto Solano Ave. at the intersection of San Pablo Ave. and Solano. Follow Solano Ave. west for several blocks, and turn right onto Cerrito. Follow Cerrito to the intersection with Hillside, and turn left onto Hillside. Drive a very short block up Hillside, and then make a hard right turn onto Taft St. Follow Taft St. to the dead end, which is the parking lot for Albany Hill, or park alongside Taft Street. From the north, exit Central Ave. from I-80, and go east on Central until you reach the stop light for San Pablo Ave. Turn right on San Pablo Ave. and follow it to Washington, which will intersect only on the right side. Turn right and go up Washington to Cerrito. Turn left onto Cerrito and follow the directions above to get to the end of Taft St. From El Cerrito Plaza BART station, take the 72 AC Transit bus southbound. Get off at Washington and San Pablo, and follow directions from Washington on foot.



Saturday, May 20: Point Molate. 10 a.m. Leader: David Amme. The field trip will focus on the unique native grassland remnants along the bay in this area. We will visit a postage stamp size prairie west of the old railroad track and have lunch overlooking the northern part of the peninsula. Views of the bay and Mt. Tamalpais are spectacular. Grasses will be in full bloom; there will be ample opportunities for learning our local native grasses. Bring your camera.

Directions: Meet at the Point Molate City Park parking lot. Head west on I-580 towards the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge. Just before the toll plaza, exit on right at Western Dr./Point Molate Exit. Go straight, towards the East Brother Light Station/Point Molate Historic Village. Turn left into City Park parking lot (just over the top of the first hill) just before the new gate entrance that says Pt. Molate Restricted Area.

(Continued on back page)

Activities of Others

Friends of Sausal Creek will meet on Wednesday, June 21, 7-9 p.m. After a short business meeting celebrate the summer solstice by spending time outside. Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. **Restoration Days.** FOSC restoration coordinator Stu Richardson will hold weekly workdays in Dimond Park and Dimond Canyon. Currently, work is focusing on oak woodland restoration in the canyon; the particular tasks and "flavor" of each day are determined by the volunteers who join in. Every Saturday morning, 9 a.m.-noon. Dimond park, Oakland. For more information on these activities, contact Anne Hayes, Aquative Outreach Institute, 231-9566. For workday information, contact Stu Richardson, oaklandsaigon@worldnet.att.net.

Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden sponsor the following: **Flora of the White Mountains.** Glenn Keator leads a trip to an area outstanding in its stark beauty, rugged terrain, varied geology, isolation and diversity of plant life, including the world's oldest trees, the bristlecone pines. Wednesday, July 12 to Monday, July 17. \$650 (\$200 contribution to Regional Parks Botanic Garden). Includes all meals at the research station, all accommodations, and instruction. Maximum 15. **Painting Native Plants and Butterflies.** Turn preliminary pencil drawings into color paintings. Detailed course outline, explanatory technique notes and supply list will be provided. Taught by Peg Steunenberg. Tuesday, July 25, Wednesday, July 26 and Thursday, July 27, 1-4:30 p.m. \$60 members/\$65 nonmembers. Maximum 15. For additional information about these courses contact Ron Clendenen, (925) 631-6614.

Wildflower and Landscape Photography, July 23-25. Steven Ruley, professional photographer and CNPS member, leads a workshop around Hope Valley and Carson Pass for beginners and advanced amateurs. \$140 (\$250/couple). For details and equipment list call (925) 449-2245.

Design with native Plants with instructor Katherine Greenberg will be offered at Merritt College on four Saturdays: August 26 and September 9, 16 and 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The class includes design concepts, information about plants, visits to native gardens and a native nursery, and a design project. Fee \$70. For more information call 436-2418 or 283-4322. To register, call 436-2413.

Wildflower photographs at the Oakland Airport. If you traveling through Oakland Airport now through June 19 be sure to see the exhibit of wildflower photographs. Some of them are by our Chapter member John Game.

The 110th Anniversary of the University of California Botanical Garden will be celebrated at a garden party featuring fabulous food and wine, talks by experts, tours of the garden and more. At the garden on Saturday, June 3, 3-7 p.m.

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley, CA 94705**

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2000 Board of Directors

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Jim Sharp 2663 LeConte Ave., Berkeley 94709 644-9344
Jude Willingham 2512 Etna St., Berkeley 94704 841-4681

Bay Leaf Editors

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Brett Boltz 2210 Spaulding Ave., Berkeley 94703 h/ 549-3327
w/ 643-0448

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East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page:

<http://www.ebcnps.org>

All area codes are 510 unless noted



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Unusual Plants:

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Donations:

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Myrtle Wolf 181 Stonewall Rd., Berkeley 94705 843-8759

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Kathleen Dickey 2374 Eunice St., Berkeley 94708 525-6489

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Growing natives group:

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Membership:

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Native Here Nursery:

Charli Danielsen 101 Golf Course Dr., Berkeley 94708 549-0211
email: cwd@wli.net

Native Plant Restoration Team:

Noah Booker 6366 Valley View Rd., Oakland 94611 h/ 339-1588
w/ 840-9367 email: casartunda@aol.com

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Plant Sale:

Shirley McPheeters 104 Ivy Dr., Orinda 94563 (925) 376-4095

Phoebe Watts 1419 Grant St., Berkeley 94703 525-6614

Publicity:

Baine Jackson 3311 Estudillo St., Martinez 94553 (925) 372-0687

Programs:

Jodi McGraw 8259 Terrace Dr., El Cerrito 94730 528-5090
email: jmmcgraw@socrates.berkeley.edu

EBRP Botanic Garden Liaison:

Jenny Fleming 2750 Shasta Rd., Berkeley 94708 848-3455

New Membership Application

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Zip _____ Telephone _____

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____ Other _____

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Field Trips

(Continued from page 4)



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Activities of Others

Jepson Herbarium 50th Anniversary Celebration and Scientific Symposium. June 16-18, Valley Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley. On Friday, June 16, there will be an Open House and Informal Reception at the Herbaria, 4-8 p.m. Saturday, June 17, a Scientific Symposium: Discovery, Communication and Conservation of Plant Biodiversity in California, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 2nd floor Valley Life Sciences Building. Speakers and panel workshops will be followed by a tour of the University and Jepson Herbaria at 4:30 p.m. and a banquet at the Radisson Hotel, Berkeley Marina, at 6:15. On Sunday, June 18 there will be botanical field trips. Participants are welcome to register for any or all of the weekend events. Registration deadline is May 19. For more information or to obtain the complete announcement and registration form, contact Betsy Ringrose or Staci Markos at 643-7008. Email: ringrose@uclink4.berkeley.edu or smarkos@socrates.berkeley.edu. Visit the web site: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/hemicen.html>.

Design with Native Plants with instructor Katherine Greenberg will be offered at Merritt College on four Saturdays: August 26 and September 9, 16 and 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The class includes design concepts, information about plants, visits to native gardens and a native nursery, and a design project. Fee \$70. For more information call 436-2418 or 283-4322. To register, call 436-2413.

"I mail, YOU mail, ahhh e-mail"

Yep, our East Bay Chapter is working on using a faster, more efficient way to communicate to our members on up and coming projects and events in our communities. We are starting to set up a Data Base with e-mail addresses and need your help and permission to do so.

Anyone interested? Please send inquiries to elainejx@wenet.net. Your e-mail address will not be used without your permission. If you don't have one yet, but would like to know more, my phone number is (925) 372-0687

. . . Elaine Jackson (Publicity)

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
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